

IN THE WORKS



“Striving to be the Leading Public Works Department Through Innovative Stewardship of Infrastructure and Environment”

Stanislaus County
Public Works
JULY 2023

NEWSLETTER RETURNS!

Welcome back to the Public Works Quarterly Newsletter

Greetings All,

I thought I would recap what has happened in the US and around the world since our last newsletter, March 2020.

Worldwide Pandemic (Covid 19) 2020-?

Wildfires run rampant - 2021 - SCU complex burned in western Stanislaus County, largest in County history

Taliban comes to power in Afghanistan 2021

War in Ukraine 2022-?

Covid Emergency Declared over in 2023

Public Works has accomplished much during this 3 year period

2020: 107 miles of road maintenance performed

988 lane miles of striping, yellow and white

606 encroachment permits issued

2021: 121 miles of road maintenance performed

1020 lane miles of striping, yellow and white

666 encroachment permits

2022: 111 miles of road maintenance performed

1,866 lane miles of striping, yellow and white

594 encroachment permits

The following bridge projects were either dedicated or opened on the dates shown, Santa Fe Bridge (6/21), Hickman Road Bridge (11/21), Crows Landing Road Bridge (08/22), Pleasant Valley Road Bridge(04/22), Schell Road Bridge (02/21).

Good job Public Works, we accomplished all that and more, during a difficult time.



DAVID LEAMON
DIRECTOR

WHATS INSIDE!

Directors Letter	1
Storm of 2023	2
Safety	6
Staff Appreciation Luncheon	7
Administration	9
Staff Updates	10
Contact Us	12

Quote of the Quarter:

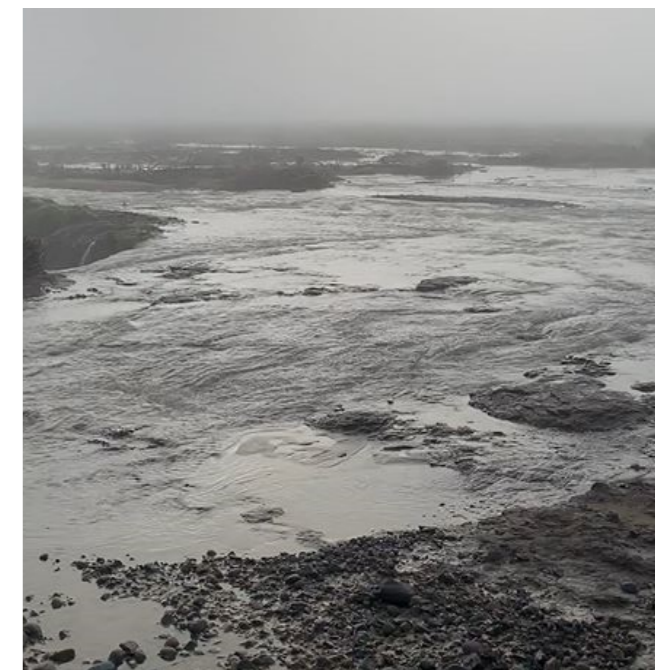
"The only limit to your success is the limit you set yourself." - Oprah Winfrey

LETTER FROM DIRECTOR DAVID LEAMON



ROADS

JANUARY 2023 STORMS



The State of California was hit by severe storms at the beginning of 2023. Stanislaus County Public Works Roads & Bridges Division ensured the team was prepared for the storms. Due to the severity of the storms, division leadership met with Road Crews to inform them that it was an all-hands-on deck situation. The Division rose to the occasion especially since they were working at 50% capacity due to vacancies, so the crews stepped up and did everything they needed to do and more. Road Crews ensured all storm water pumps were operational, kept sandbags and sand stocked at the Morgan Road Yard, and kept plenty of road closure material available. Staff anticipated and planned for road closures if the storms worsened. When the first storm hit in January, the County's Office of Emergency Services (OES) switched to a 24-hour operation and so did the Roads Division--running two 12 hour shifts seven days a week. Public Works assigned staff to be at OES 24 hours a day, which was beneficial to OES as this expedited implementing mitigating measures, from road closures, clearing rockslides, or making and delivering sandbags.





ROADS

JANUARY 2023 STORMS

The Road Crews, at any given time, had 46 road closures and were putting out flooded signs all over Stanislaus County. OES rented two 60' long reach excavators that the Road Crews operated to clean the Water Hyacinth from under the bridges on Shiloh Road, Grayson Road, and Los Palmas Avenue. Then the excavator was taken to Del Puerto to do repairs from rockslides and washouts. Road Crews distributed over 100,000 sandbags to county residents and other agencies that needed them and used over 250 tons of sand. The Department worked with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department to coordinate assistance from their Alternative Work Program (AWP) to fill sandbags. The Department also received assistance from 7/11 Materials, Inc. as they donated sand to Stanislaus County community members in need. Crews responded to 54 downed tree calls, 15 of those calls came within the same hour on Rodden and Orange Blossom. The need for assistance was high, to the point that a California Highway Patrol Officer (CHP) provided help to James Sanchez, Senior Road Maintenance Worker cut and clear trees. The Roads Division also addressed a levee break on the Tuolumne River by Shiloh Road. Darren Teeples, Roads Supervisor, responded to the call and suggested the property owners cave in the levee with an excavator and fill it with shot rock.



ROADS

JANUARY 2023 STORMS

These are a few examples of Road Crews going above and beyond what is expected of them. The average number of service requests received for potholes is 30 a month, and that's on the high side. During the storms, the Division received 285+ requests. The most impressive part of what Public Works and all other the agencies accomplished was their ability to work well together and resolve issues. The Roads Division took time away from their families to work in bad weather conditions, long hours, they looked out for one another, and kept a positive attitude no matter what was asked of them. Their efforts ensured the roads were as safe as possible for the residents of Stanislaus County. Being the Road Superintendent for only six months when this happened, I was impressed and proud of everyone in the department for making the safety of residents of Stanislaus County their number one priority. Stanislaus County set the bar for everyone else to follow.



These are photos on Diablo Grande Parkway February 2023. This area is 70' high and 250' across. The whole hillside gave way due to the amount of rain that saturated the hillside. (Above)

Written by Brian England, Road Superintendent



ROADS

JANUARY 2023 STORMS

The following photos were taken in Del Puerto Canyon in the storms in January of 2023. Del Puerto Canyon is located just west of the City of Patterson. Stanislaus County Public Works maintains 22 miles of roadway in the Canyon. Then at the 22-mile marker Santa Clara County takes over. Stanislaus County Road Department works with Santa Clara County to keep the road open. Patterson is the closest place for the residents to go to for there needs. During the Fires in 2021 the Roads crews where in the Canyon removing hazardous trees and debris from the roadway so the fire crews could concentrate on the fire .



SAFETY

At Public Works, we believe that safety is everyone's responsibility. We are committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment for all of our employees.

That's why we encourage and promote safety at your work place that includes:

- Regular safety training for all employees
- Safe work procedures and practices
- Equipment and tools that are properly maintained
- A strong safety culture that emphasizes prevention

We know that accidents can happen, but we are committed to doing everything we can to prevent them. We ask that all employees follow the safety rules and procedures that have been put in place to protect themselves and their co-workers.

If you see something that is unsafe, please speak up. We want to know about any potential hazards so that we can take corrective action.

Thank you for your cooperation in making Public Works a safe workplace.

Here are some additional tips for creating a safety-first culture in your Department:

- **Lead by example:** Employees are more likely to follow safety procedures if they see their leaders doing the same.
- **Encourage open communication:** Employees should feel comfortable reporting safety concerns without fear of retaliation.
- **Celebrate successes:** When employees follow safety procedures and prevent accidents, be sure to recognize their efforts.
- **Make safety a priority:** Safety should be a top priority for everyone in the Department, from the Director to the front-line employees.

By following these tips, you can create a safety-first culture in your Department that will help to keep everyone safe.

Congratulations!

As of the end of June 2023, we have gone 201 days without a workplace injury, accident, or incident. This is a significant achievement, and it is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone in our Department.

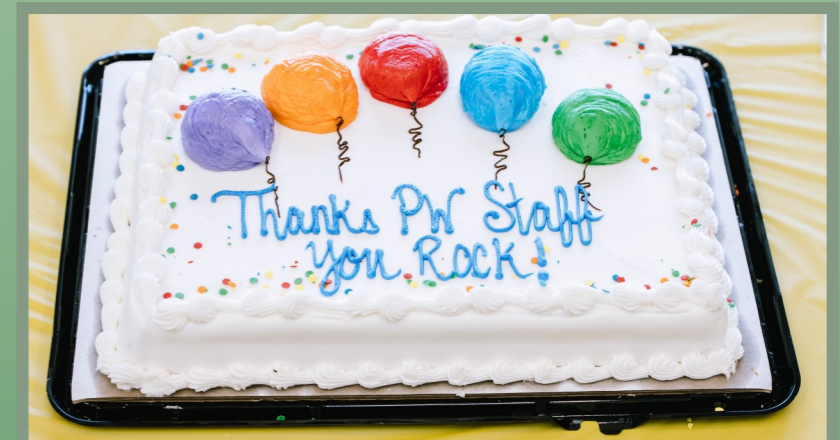
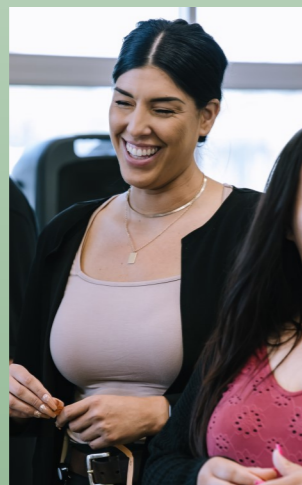
Let's Keep this momentum going!



STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON 2023



STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON 2023





ADMINISTRATION



STAFF & PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES

Meet your Public Works Admin Staff

"An administration team is the backbone of any organization. They are the ones who keep the wheels turning and ensure that everything runs smoothly." - Unknown

Cassandra W

ADMIN CLERK III

Cassandra joined Stanislaus County Public Works in May of 2022. She jumps right in on assignments & offers a helping hand in other areas needed. She is looking forward to learning more in the years to come!

Arcelia G

ADMIN CLERK III

Arcelia has been a part of the Stanislaus County workforce for the past 16 years, and joined Public Works in January 2022. She has enjoyed working closely with and learning about the Development Services Division and looks forward to continue gaining knowledge about all things Public Works. She assists with any and all admin-related tasks and recently took over our Safety Bingo program.

"We work to live, not live to work."

Lizette P

ADMIN SECRETARY

Joined Public Works in February 2023. Lizette is happy to assist the department with Board Agenda Item coordination and Bid Advertisement. Out of work she enjoys a fun day outdoors, whether it be at the park with her kids or barbecuing with family.

Victoria P

CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANT

Victoria started with Public Works in January. She is a partner to Deborah to now create a team of two and assistance with all things HR. She lives in Ceres with her family and kitties. Victoria enjoys time with her family and a good binge of shows or movies every now and then.

Carlos V

STAFF SERV ANALYST

Carlos has just started at Public Works in June. He has taken over the Quarterly Newsletter as well as the Annual Report for Public Works. He resides in Modesto with his Cat, Korben Dallas-Multipass. He is excited to learn all things Public Works as he is the newest member of the admin team.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sam Chrun on becoming Deputy Director of Engineering!

Sam will complete our team of three Deputy Directors here at Public Works. With three Deputy Directors in place, Public Works has made a few changes to how the different divisions report.

Here is the new reporting structure:

- Chris Brady - Deputy Director of Development Services and Special Projects
 - Development Services and Permitting
 - All things water — Flood and Storm Water Quality
 - Special Projects — ARPA and Building Community Infrastructure
- Sam Chrun - Deputy Director of Engineering
 - Design
 - Construction
 - Survey
- Frederic Clark - Deputy Director of Operations
 - Roads
 - Shop
 - Traffic Engineering
- Tracie Madison - Senior Business Manager
 - Administration
 - Finance



Sam Chrun

We are excited to have Sam join our team of Deputy Directors, and we look forward to working with him to continue to deliver high-quality services to our community.

Please join us in congratulating Sam on his new role!



STAFF & PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES

CONGRATULATIONS

Amber Minami, Stormwater Program Manager

We are pleased to welcome Amber Minami to the Public Works team as the Stormwater Program Manager. She brings over 15 years of public service experience in water and construction.

Amber has a BS in Geological Sciences from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She began working for Stanislaus County in 2007, as a Hazardous Materials Specialist in the Department of Environmental Resources where she oversaw the investigation and cleanup of hazardous material releases to soil and groundwater. In 2020, Amber joined the Department of Public Works in a dual capacity as both an Encroachment Inspector with Development Services and Construction Inspector with Construction Engineering.

Amber and her husband Billy have two daughters, Alina (11) and Brynn (9). Her family enjoys travel, soccer, and snowboarding.

Please join us in congratulating Amber on her new role!



STAFF & PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES

Public Works Welcomes New Hires, Announces Promotions, and Celebrates Retirements

The Public Works Department is pleased to announce a number of changes to its team in the first two quarters of 2023. We are excited to welcome twelve new employees, promote one current employees, and celebrate the retirement of four of our long-serving employees.

Jan. 2023 – Present :

New Hires:

Joe Barboa	April 17
Noah Casillas	April 24
Nic Gil	April 24
Adrian Espinoza	July 3
Josh Henke	April 24
Arishma Kumari	May 8
Amber Minami	April 17
Lizette Perez	Feb 27
Victoria Preciado	Jan 17
Elias Rodriguez	July 31
Carlos Vazquez	May 8
Jasmine Zapien	May 22

Promotions:

Sam Chrun May 20

Retirements:

Frederic Arroyo	Dec 30
Wayne McConnell	March 11
Dhyan Gilton	July 5
Casey Roberts	March 17

PUBLIC WORKS
 1716 Morgan Road
 Modesto, CA 95358-5805
 Phone: 209-525-4130
 Fax: 209-541-2505
 1010 10th Street, Suite 4204
 Modesto, CA 95354-0870
www.stancounty.com/publicworks

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this quarters Newsletter! Articles by Public Works Writers Published by Carlos Vazquez